

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Of these pending claims, Claim 2 has been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached a revised drawing for the Examiner's approval. In this "Replacement Sheet", a minor change has been made to element labeling.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin (U.S. Pat. No. 4,301,881) in view of Sindelar (U.S. Pat. No. 4,344,287). Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin in view of Sindelar and Porta (U.S. Pat. No. 4,235,297). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin in view of Sindelar and Yamaoka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,809,796).

The Examiner's attention is directed to amended Claims 1 and 7 which have been amended to include the limitation that the individual valve sets within the system include variable volume control valves that regulate the volume and direction of the fluid flow the hydraulic motor. Applicant notes that Griffin utilizes multiple solenoid driven valves V1 through V6 to regulate the pressure within the system. As described in the

issued patent, the system methodology requires the use of a relatively complicated control regime with multiple variable control valves.

The Office Action states that it would be obvious to combine the incremental flow valves of Porta (US Patent 4,235,297) with the system taught in Griffin (US 4,301,881) in view of Sindelar (US 4,344,287). Applicant notes that the while Porta reference may teach a drive system utilizing an incremental flow valve, the system in Porta suffers the same disadvantages of the systems described in the "Background of the Invention" that the instant application overcomes. Specifically, the Porta reference teaches a parallel hydraulic drive system as opposed to the series hydraulic drive system of the instant application. There is no teaching or suggestion in the Porta or Griffin references to use the incremental flow valve along with the claimed slave control valves in a series hydraulic system for a turf care product. There is likewise no suggestion in the Griffin reference that there is a deficiency which can be eliminated by the claimed invention. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine these references.

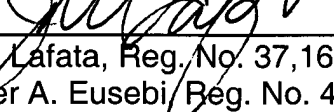
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt

and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figure 2.

The attached "Replacement Sheet", which include Figures 2 and 3, replace the original sheet including Figures 2 & 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 2/5